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Agenda item 108
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Draft resolutions submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Consideration of special subjects

A
Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/572 of 20 December 2002 and its resolutions 57/312 of 18 June 2003, 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and 54/244 of 23 December 1999,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO[1] and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme management and administrative practices of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the recommendations contained therein are implemented expeditiously.

B
Progressive implementation of article 20 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 49 of its resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the progressive implementation of article 20 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High

[1] A/59/405.
[2] A/59/543.
[3] See A/59/229.

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Commissioner for Refugees[4] and the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[5]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the programme budget proposals for progressive increases for contributions from the regular budget to the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to the full implementation of article 20 of the statute of the Office and to report on the progress made to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session in the context of the proposed programme budget and recognizing that the percentage referred to in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General does not represent a ceiling;

3. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to keep its support costs, including management and administration, under review with the objective of reducing these as a percentage of total budget expenditure, and welcomes the decision of the Office to initiate a headquarters process review with the aim of simplifying and streamlining administration;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 a transparent presentation of the purposes for which regular budget funds are proposed, including the composition of administrative costs and information on efficiency measures;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that oversight and accountability mechanisms in the Office of the High Commissioner are operating effectively with the required independence, authority and transparency.

C

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session and resumed substantive sessions of 2004

The General Assembly

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2004[6] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[7] on the understanding that such appropriations as may be necessary and not exceeding 573,600 United States dollars will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly.

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[4] A/59/294.

[5] See A/C.5/59/SR.26.

[6] A/59/393 and Add.1.

[7] A/59/542 and A/59/597.

D

Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses relating to expenses certified by the President of the International Court of Justice[8] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

1. *Approves* the request to change the ceiling to 200,000 United States dollars under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses that may be certified by the President of the Court without prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in connection with the designation of ad hoc judges with effect from the biennium 2006-2007;

2. *Further approves* the proposal to maintain an amount of 400,000 dollars in the regular budget of the Court to accommodate the recurring requirements for ad hoc judges, with effect from the biennium 2006-2007, to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

E

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work of the Institute for 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work of the Institute for 2005[10] and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[11]

2. *Approves* the request for a subvention by the General Assembly of 227,600 United States dollars, to be recosted, for 2005 from the regular budget of the United Nations, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;[12]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for biennial review and approval by the General Assembly of subvention requirements of the Institute beginning with the biennium 2006-2007.

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[8] A/59/90.

[9] A/59/551.

[10] A/C.5/59/3 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[11] A/59/553 and Corr.1.

[12] A/58/6 (Sect. 4). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6*.

F

Construction of additional conference facilities at Vienna International Centre

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at Vienna International Centre[13] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions orally presented by its Chairman,[14]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal of the Government of Austria to construct a new conference facility within the boundaries of the Vienna International Centre;

2. *Approves* the participation of the United Nations, along with the other organizations located in the Vienna International Centre, in the arrangements for the proposed new conference facility on the terms proposed by the Secretary-General in his report;

3. *Entrusts* the Secretary-General to determine, in cooperation with the other three organizations located at the Vienna International Centre, the cost-sharing arrangements for potential future costs arising from the project within the amount indicated in his report, on the understanding that the related financial requirements will be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the respective bienniums, and to report thereon to the General Assembly for its review and decision;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the progress in the project implementation to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

G

Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: status of implementation

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the Department of Public Information, within the existing capacity, in order to support and enhance the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization: status of implementation"[15] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[16]

Recalling paragraph 42 of its resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003 and paragraph 95 of its resolution 59/126 B of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the web site through further redeployment to the required language posts,

Reaffirming the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations web site,

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[13] A/C.5/59/23.

[14] See A/C.5/59/SR.31.

[15] A/59/336.

[16] A/59/558.

Also reaffirming its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[15] and paragraphs 19 to 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[16]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit proposals to strengthen the United Nations web site within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

H

Revised estimates and programme budget implication: effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[17] and the oral statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Decides to approve the adjustments to revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications, as applicable, subject to the approval of related amounts for individual revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications.

I

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005[18] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19]

Recalling its resolutions 58/270 and 58/271 A to C of 23 December 2003 and 58/295 of 18 June 2004,

1. *Reaffirms* the budgetary process as approved in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and as reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and its addendum on the implementation of the United Nations Official Documents System,[18] and endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance that Member States attach to the work of the Office of the President of the General Assembly in support of the activities carried out by the President of the General Assembly;

[17] A/C.5/59/24.

[18] A/59/578 and Add.1.

[19] A/59/601.

4. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of its annex to resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003, notes the assurances given by the Secretariat that the three remaining positions, namely, 1 D-2, 1 D-1 and 1 General Service, needed to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly will be provided, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to ensure its full and expeditious implementation;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of paragraph 4 above in the context of the second performance report;

6. *Decides* to approve a gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for the year 2005 in the amount of 5,385,700 United States dollars and to appropriate the amount of 1,712,700 dollars under section 31, Jointly financed administrative activities, for the financing of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2005;

7. *Notes* the content of paragraph 42 of the report of the Secretary-General and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly comprehensively on this issue at the beginning of its sixtieth session;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of its resolution 58/270 and notes that its implementation resulted in a decrease of 4,007,000 dollars from the original proposed appropriation in section 23, Regular programme of technical cooperation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to fill expeditiously vacant positions for web-site assistants in all official languages from external candidates, utilizing general temporary assistance.

J

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council and on the request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone,[20] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[21]

Reaffirming section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council;[20]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report,[21] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes* that the charging of expenditures against the appropriation for special political missions would be subject to the extension of the respective mandates;

[20] A/59/534 and Add.1 and 2.

[21] A/59/569 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2.

4. *Reaffirms*, in the context of all Security Council decisions on special political missions, the prerogatives of the General Assembly in issues related to administrative and budgetary matters;

5. *Reiterates* that, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules, the submission of the budget proposals is a prerogative of the Secretary-General;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters;

7. *Regrets* the late issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, and requests the Secretary-General, in the future, to present budget proposals for special political missions at an earlier date, in order to facilitate proper consideration by the General Assembly;

8. *Approves* the budgets of the 25 special political missions presented in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General;[22]

9. *Decides* to appropriate under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, under section 3, Political affairs, an amount of 678,600 United States dollars for the three special political missions presented in table 1, part A, of the report of the Secretary-General, emanating from the decisions taken or to be taken by the General Assembly;

10. *Also decides* to appropriate under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213, under section 3, Political affairs, an amount of 161,936,100 dollars for the 22 special political missions presented in table 1, part B, of the report of the Secretary-General, emanating from the decisions taken or to be taken by the Security Council;

11. *Further decides* to appropriate an amount of 12,132,500 dollars under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2004-2005;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the next budget proposals for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to review and consider possible streamlining of the structure and level of positions, bearing in mind its temporary nature and its status as a subsidiary body of the Security Council, as well as to address its relationship with the Department of Political Affairs;

13. *Decides* to approve the proposed waiver requested for the implementation of section III.B, paragraph 26, of resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, on an exceptional and extraordinary basis, and requests the Secretary-General to report in the next budget submission on how many consultants given such waiver were recruited, along with their nationalities and functions performed;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to recruit staff for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. *Decides* that the use of experts and consultants for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and for the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) should also be in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

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[22] A/59/534/Add.1 and Corr.1.

16. *Takes note* that the commitment authority authorized in resolution 58/284 of 8 April 2004 valid through 31 December 2004 to support a subvention for the Special Court for Sierra Leone has been held unused in view of the continued dependence of the Court on voluntary contributions during the period and is being surrendered;

17. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed 20 million dollars to supplement the financial resources of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, with effect from 1 January 2005 to 30 June 2005, under special political missions of section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in concert with the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, to continue efforts to raise voluntary contributions to support the work of the Court and to report to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-ninth session on progress made;

19. *Appeals* to Member States, as a matter of urgency, to contribute voluntary funds in support of the Court and to honour existing pledges;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-ninth session a progress report in respect of the Special Court for Sierra Leone;

21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to bring to the attention of the President of the Security Council the contents of the present resolution.

K

Financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, transmitting the note by the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the rationalization of the financial structure of the Institute,[23] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Takes note* with concern of the observations and conclusions of the Board of Trustees transmitted under the cover of the note by the Secretary-General;[23]

2. *Stresses* the importance of maintaining the current level of the training programmes of the Institute and requests the Board of Trustees to make every effort to ensure that in 2005 the level of training programmes will be maintained;

3. *Stresses also* the need for continued consideration of the issues related to the Institute's rent, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, with a view to its expeditious resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, as a priority, to the General Assembly at the beginning of its sixtieth session, and prior to the introduction of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, a comprehensive report on all aspects of the financial situation of the United Nations Institute for Training

[23] A/59/271.

and Research, including proposals which would address the long-term, sound and predictable funding of rent and maintenance costs;

5. *Decides* to consider the outcome of its consideration of that report in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

L

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/___ of ___ December 2004, entitled "United Nations common system",

Takes note of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General[24] on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004[25] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[26]

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[24] A/59/429.

[25] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/59/30).

[26] A/59/522.